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Secretary of State TO:

Downgraded To: CONFIDENTIAL

2781, NOVEMBER 20, 6 PM NO:

LEO 11652: XEDSOD 2 3 A Authorized Eg: H. D. Brawster August 4, 1975

SENT DEPARTMENT 2781 REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 71 BOY

4398 NOVEMBER 14

DISTRIBUTION LIMIT

EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT IN CONCLUSIONS PARA B NOTE 2 OF WATCH COMMITTEE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 6-12 (REF. AIRGRAM) RECENT SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN DECLARATIONS ON BERLIN ARE DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING OF EFFORT "TO MAKE WESTERN ACCESS TO THE CITY CONDITIONAL ON DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE EAST GERMAN REGIME". THIS EVALUATION OF SOVIET LIMITED OBJECTIVE FAILS TAKE ACCOUNT MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT DEVELOPING SOVIET OFFENSIVE HAS DEEPER AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE IN THAT IT DIRECTED AS MUCH OR EVEN MORE TOWARD CLIMINATING, OR AT LEAST ERODING. WESTERN POSITION BERLIN. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION THIS SOVIET OBJECTIVE SEEMS VERY CLEAR BOTH IN KHRUSHCHEV'S NOVEMBER 10 STATEMENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN GROMYKO CONVERSATION WITH KROLL(DEPTEL TO LONDON 4891), PRAVDA ARTICLE OF NOVEMBER 18 (MOSCOW TEL TO DEPT 111) AND REMARKS POLISH AMBASSADOR MOSCOW TO THOMPSON(MOSCOW TEL TO DEPT. 1114). RECOGNITION OF EAST GERMAN REGIME BY WESTERN POWERS OBVIOUSLY DESIRABLE FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, BUT IN EMBASSY'S OPINION IT IS ONLY ONE FACET CURRENT THERE IS IN OUR VIEW DANGEROUS SOVIET OFFENSIVE. TENDENCY EVIDENT IN SOME WESTERN THINKING, FOR EXAMPLE IN BRITISH MEMORANDUM(EMBTEL 2752), TO VIEW BERLIN PROBLEM IN NARROW CONTEXT EAST GERMAN RECOGNITION QUESTION AND TO TAILOR WESTERN RESPONSE ACCORDINGLY. IN ALL PROBABILITY SOVIETS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TACTICALLY TO ENCOURAGE

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-2- 2731, NOVEMBER 20, 6 PM, FROM LONDON.

PUBLIC OPINION IN WEST TO VIEW PROPLEM IN THIS LIGHT IN HORDS GENERATHES FURTIC PRESSURES IN EMVOR RECOGNITION AS ALTERNATIVE TO PLOCKABE OF POSSIBLE ARMODICASH. THIS OF COMMISE IS SYNHETIC FORCHAFTON OF ISSUE WHICH WE WILL BE USEN ACLE TO COMMITTE PROVIDED WE ARE CLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS AS TO FUR REACHING SIGNIFICANCE OF EVEN INITIAL MOVES IN DIRECTION RECOGNITION EAST GERMAN REGIET. IT IS FOR THIS REASON EMPASSEY DISTURBED BY INADEQUACY FORMULATION PARA B NOTE 2.

WHITNEY

SLS/23